4. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the 1,2-alkanediol has 6 to 8 carbon atoms.

5. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the glycol monoether is glycol monobutyl ether, the 1,2-alkanediol is 1,2-hexanediol, and the content of the 1,2-hexanediol is less than 2.5% by weight based on the total amount of the ink composition.

6. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a water-soluble dye.

7. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a pigment and which further comprises a dispersant for dispersing the pigment.

9. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 1, which further comprises a nonionic surfactant.

11. (Amended) An ink jet recording method comprising the steps of: ejecting droplets of an ink composition; and depositing the droplets onto a recording medium to perform printing, wherein the ink composition is one according to claim 1.

16. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 13, wherein the 1,2-alkanediol is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-butanediol, 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-heptanediol, and a mixture thereof.

17. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 3 to 10% by weight of 1,2-butanediol.

18. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 3 to 10% by weight of 1,2-pentanediol.

19. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 1 to 6% by weight of 1,2-hexanediol.

20. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 13, which contains, as the 1,2-alkanediol, 0.5 to 3% by weight of 1,2-heptanediol.

21. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 16, wherein the block polymer resin as the dispersant has an acid value of 100 to 200.

22. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 16, wherein the dispersant is a block copolymer represented by AB, ABA, or ABC in which:

A is a hydrophilic block;

B is a hydrophobic block and contains at least 30% by weight, based on the weight of the B, of a non-acryl monomer selected from the group consisting of

(1) CH_2=CH–R

wherein R represents a C_6 – C_{20} substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl group,

(2) CH_2=CH–OR^1

wherein R^1 represents a C_3 – C_{20} substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl group,

(3) CH_2–CH–O–C(O)– R^1

wherein R^1 is as defined in (2), and

(4) CH_2=CH–NR^2R^3

wherein R^2 and R^3 are each independently selected from the group containing of H and C_3 – C_{20} substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or alkaryl group, provided that R^2 and R^3 do not simultaneously represent H; and

C may be any desired block.

23. (Amended) The ink composition according to claim 13, which further comprises a nonionic surfactant.